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PROCEEDINGS

IN

Charleston, South-Carolina.

Charleston, S. C. Citizens.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Citizens of Charleston,

ON THE

INCENDIARY MACHINATIONS,

NOW IN PROGRESS

Against the Peace and Welfare

OF THE

SOUTHERN STATES.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF COUNCIL.

CHARLESTON:
PRINTED BY A. E. MILLER,
No. 4 Broad-street.

1835.

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CITY COUNCIL, Aug. 11th, 1835.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to carry into effect the Resolutions adopted by the Citizens at their meeting on the 10th inst. so far as the duties under the same devolve on Council, and that said Committee be instructed to attend upon the successive arrivals of Steam-Boat Mails from New-York, and elsewhere, if necessary, and see that said Mails are conducted to the Post-Office for examination under the inspection of the Post-Master.

The Committee are Messrs. Seymour, Bryan, Graves, Magrath, Henry, and the Intendant requested to act as Chairman.

Resolved, That the above Resolution be published, and a copy furnished the Post-Master, the Agent of the Steam Packets, and the President of the Rail-Road Company.

From the Minutes.

WILLIAM ROACH,

Clerk of Council.

AN ADJOURNED

Meeting of the Citizens of Charleston,

SOUTH-CAROLINA,

WAS held in the City-Hall on the 10th of August, to receive the Report of the Committee of Twenty-one: who were appointed at a previous meeting, and consisted of the following gentlemen:

ROBERT Y. HAYNE,
THOMAS LOWNDES,
NATHANIEL HEYWARD,
WILLIAM READ,
BENJAMIN F. DUNKIN,
JOHN ROBINSON,
JAMES ROBERTSON,
CHARLES EDMONDSTON,
EDWARD CAREW,
HENRY A. DESAUSSURE,
RENE GODARD,
JAMES LYNAH,
TRISTRAM TUPPER,
MARTIN RODDY,
EDWARD R. LAURENS,
SAMUEL P. RIPLEY,
JOHN L. PEZANT,
MYER JACOBS,
JOHN STROHECKER,
WILLIAM KIRKWOOD.

HIS Honour, the INTENDANT, being called to the Chair, and WILLIAM PATTON, Esq. appointed Secretary, Judge COLCOCK, as Chairman of the Committee, addressed the meeting, explaining the acts and objects of the Committee, and submitted the Preamble and Resolutions following, which were unanimously adopted, the Resolutions being separately put and carried.

PREAMBLE.

THE Committee of Twenty-one, to whom was referred the important subject on which the citizens of Charleston were lately convened, beg leave to Report—that they have had the matter referred to them under due deliberation, and recommend the adoption of the annexed Resolutions. The Committee have purposely abstained from any laboured argument on the subject of Slavery, not from any inability to sustain, on moral and scriptural grounds, its existence and toleration as now established in South-Carolina, but from a deep conviction of the fixed resolution of the people of this State, to permit no discussion within her limits, of RIGHTS, which she deems inherent and inseparable from the very existence of the State; rights which existed before the Union was formed, and which were guaranteed to her by the Federal Constitution, when, as a Sovereign State, she became a member of the Confederacy. The Committee, therefore, submit the following RESOLUTIONS for the adoption of the Citizens, without further comment:

1. *Resolved*, That we hold it to be an unquestionable truth, that the subject of Slavery as it now exists in the Slave holding States of this Union, is, in all its bearings, a DOMESTIC QUESTION, belonging exclusively to the citizens of these States ;—that the people of no other State have any right to interfere therewith, in any manner whatsoever—and that such interference is utterly inconsistent with the Federal compact, and cannot be submitted to.

2. *Resolved*, That we regard with the utmost indignation and abhorrence, the proceedings of those INCENDIARIES in some of our Sister States, who, under the name of "Anti-Slavery Societies," and other specious appellations, are endeavouring to undermine our Institutions, regardless of the fatal consequences which must inevitably result from the prosecution of their nefarious schemes, which, if successful, could not fail to involve the Southern States in ruin, and produce the utter destruction of that class of persons for whose welfare they pretend to be so solicitous.

The statements recently put forth of the existence at this time, of 250 such Societies in thirteen States, and the weekly issue from a single Press in the City of New-York, of from 25 to 50,000 copies of these Incendiary Pamphlets and Papers, with which our Public Mail has been lately burdened, and which are now spreading their deleterious influence throughout the Southern States—admonish us of the absolute necessity of taking prompt and decisive measures, to avert the dire calamities which such proceedings are so well calculated to produce.

3. *Resolved*, That these proceedings have brought about a *crisis*, which makes an earnest, and we trust it may prove an irresistible appeal, to all such of our Fellow-Citizens in the non-Slave holding States as may disapprove of these Societies and their measures, calling upon them by every consideration of duty and

of patriotism, to *manifest that disapprobation*, not merely by the expression of their opinions, but by the most active, zealous and persevering efforts to put down these Associations, and to suppress that fanatical spirit, which in pursuing *an imaginary good*, is regardless of the fatal consequences which are inseparable even from its continued prosecution, among which, not the least to be lamented, would be THE CERTAIN DESTRUCTION OF THE UNION.

4. *Resolved*, That under our political system, where a number of Sovereign States are united together by a written compact in a Federal Union, for special purposes only, each member of such an union has an unquestionable right to expect and require, (what is indeed the very basis of such a connexion) that no interference whatever shall take place with her DOMESTIC POLICY, or PECULIAR INSTITUTIONS, either by the constituted authorities of the Federal or other State Governments, or by the people of other States, and it is the imperative duty of each State, to prevent, by suitable penalties and provisions, *their own citizens* from being guilty of any such interference with the Domestic policy of any other State.

5. *Resolved*, That the Post-Office establishment cannot consistently with the Constitution of the United States, and the objects of such an instittution, be converted into an instrument for the dissemination of Incendiary publications, and that it is the duty of the Federal Government to provide that it shall not be so prostituted, which can easily be effected by merely making it unlawful to transport by the Public Mail, through the limits of any State, any seditious Papers, forbidden by the laws of such State to be introduced or circulated therein, and by adopting the necessary regulations to effect this object.

6. *Resolved*, That in the event of no effectual measures being adopted either by the General or State Governments, or by the

people of the non-slave holding States, for the suppression of the great and growing evil of which we complain, it will become the solemn duty of all these States having a common interest with us on this subject, to adopt the most decisive and efficacious measures TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

7. *Resolved*, That for the purpose of making such an earnest appeal to the people of the non-slave holding States, as may convince them of the true state of public feeling among us, it would in the opinion of this meeting be desirable to bring about a cordial co-operation among all the States having a common interest with us, either through a CONVENTION or in any other way best calculated to embody public sentiment, so that THE TRUTH MAY BE MADE KNOWN, that however we may differ among ourselves on other points, we are on this subject UNITED AS ONE MAN IN THE FIXED AND UNALTERABLE DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN OUR RIGHTS, AND DEFEND OUR PROPERTY AGAINST ALL ATTACKS,—BE THE CONSEQUENCES WHAT THEY MAY.

8. *Resolved*, That we have no doubt of the right of each State to provide by law against the introduction of a *moral pestilence* calculated to endanger its existence, and to give authority to their Courts, adequate to the suppression of the evil; and we, therefore, respectfully submit to the Legislature of this State the propriety of passing laws (should those now of force not be adequate to the object) *commensurate with the means now practised against us*, and especially giving authority to the Judges, by proper warrants, to seize and destroy, and requiring all persons to deliver up to be destroyed, all incendiary publications which may be brought into this State, calculated to excite domestic insurrection, or to disturb the tranquillity, happiness and safety of the people.

9. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Chairman of this meeting to the Governor of this State,

with a request that the same may be laid before the Legislature, in order that they may take such measures as to them may seem proper. That copies be also transmitted to our fellow-citizens in each Judicial District of this State, requesting their concurrence in the sentiments herein expressed. That the Honourable the City Council be requested to cause to be printed at the public expense 5000 copies of the foregoing resolutions for general distribution, and that His Honor, the Intendant, be requested officially to transmit to the Intendant or Mayor of each Incorporated City or Town in the United States a copy thereof, and that a sufficient number of copies be furnished to the Chairman of the Committee, to be by him transmitted in our behalf to such persons in different portions of the Union as may probably be disposed to concur with us in the sentiments herein expressed.

10. *Resolved*, That the Intendant and Wardens be earnestly requested to exert their utmost vigilance in detecting and bringing to punishment all persons who may be in any way engaged in furthering in this State the dangerous schemes of the Anti-Slavery Society, or other evil disposed persons; and that, if necessary, they do call upon the citizens to aid them in the performance of this duty, and the citizens here present do pledge themselves collectively and individually, to use their utmost efforts to aid and assist the Constituted authorities in the performance of this important duty

11. *Resolved*, That the City Council be also requested to take the proper measures to secure the strict performance of the duty imposed by the law upon the Harbor Master, of keeping a correct list of all the persons arriving to and departing from this Port, and that they also request the President and Directors of the Rail-Road Company, to have correct lists of all persons arriving and departing by that conveyance, whether white, free coloured, or slaves, and that measures be taken to have these lists regularly examined, to the intent that Incendiaries and other evil disposed

persons coming amongst us, or attempting to pass through thi State, may be detected and exposed.

12. *Resolved*, That these proceedings be signed by the Chai man and Secretary, and published in all the papers of this State and as it is desirable that the sentiments of the people of th Southern States on this subject, should be generally known, w respectfully request that the public presses throughout the Unite States will make their readers acquainted with these our proceed ings—which we doubt not contain a faithful expression of th sentiments of those States, without distinction of parties.

C. J. COLCOCK, *Chairman.*

EDWARD R. LAURENS, *Secretary.*

On motion of H. BAILEY, Esq. seconded by R. YEADON, Es

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be returned to th Committee, for their able, zealous and patriotic discharge of th duties assigned to them, and for the measures adopted by the for the preservation of the public order and safety.

EDWARD W. NORTH, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM PATTON, *Secretary.*

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